

Husband:

THOMAS SHEPPARD

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| Born: | ~1600 | Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England |
| Married: | ~1620 | England |
| Died: | 1671 | Castle John, County Tipperary, Ireland |

Wife:

Issue:

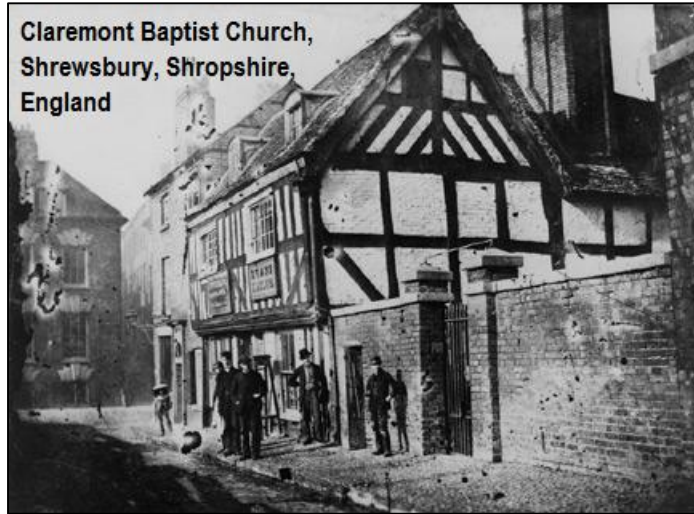
1. THOMAS SHEPPARD ~1622 England
2. **DAVID SHEPPARD** ~1624 **England**
3. WILLIAM SHEPPARD?
4. SIMON SHEPPARD?

This illustrious ancestor has all the makings of a great movie – he was one of those so-often-seen Hollywood versions of a knight in shining armor riding off into battle, the sun glinting off his helmet, battle sword drawn – for that is what he truly was! He was taken in battle as a prisoner of the KING OF ENGLAND but managed to escape after more than a month’s captivity. If these exploits weren’t enough he risked life-and-limb when he stood up to Parliament demanding equal rights for all men; this at a time when such utterances usually brought disgrace if not death. The guiding principle of his life is found in his conviction and dedication to the new Baptist religion which argues for each person’s right to self-determination. And to add a finishing touch, he goes on to own a huge Irish estate in County Tipperary where he lives out the rest of his years raising a family and living in a real castle – *Castle John*! And the family had not just one castle, but two: THOMAS’ brother WILLIAM ended up living nearby and building *Castle Sheppard* which still stands today as a country home. And yet, despite knowing all of this particular information and much conjecture which is bound to be correct, at no point is the name of the woman that married him, bore his children and shared his life so much as mentioned – much to this researcher’s frustration. Another contested area surrounds his year of birth – many researchers have made the assumption that the four brothers who brought their Irish Baptists church to Southern Jersey were the sons of CAPTAIN THOMAS and have extrapolated backwards to guess at the year he was born with many ending up in the 1620 area. The four brothers were the sons of DAVID SHEPPARD above, the second son of CAPTAIN THOMAS, and therefore his grandsons, which moves back the anticipated year of birth by a minimum of twenty years, i.e. around 1600, which meshes nicely with his death at 71 years old. So on with his story

ENGLAND IN THE 1640S

THOMAS SHEPPARD may be from the county of Shropshire as found in transcripts of the questioning he was subjected to in the House of Commons in 1647. Shropshire is a part of the Welsh Marches that border Wales in the West Midlands. At times past, parts of Shropshire were actually claimed by Wales and at least one genealogist claims a Welsh ancestry for the SHEPPARD family, which may turn out to be true. Given that THOMAS’ grandsons that moved to Cohansey, New Jersey named their lands there Shrewsbury Neck, it is a good bet the SHEPPARD family was from Shrewsbury, the shire town for Shopshire. A cursory review of extracts of the Church of England (Anglican) parish registers for the county reveals nothing definite but a

candidate for THOMAS' parents is found in the parish registers of the Lichfield diocese. On 2 October 1614 THOMAS SHEPHEARD married MARY HIKINE in the Pitchfield church. The collection also list a baptism for THOMAS, son of PHILLIP and ELINOR SHEAPPARD in the Hereford diocese; the exact church is not named, but, as PHILLIP and ELINOR had been married just a few years earlier, this can not be our ancestor. The Baptist Church (also called the Church of Christ at that time) at Shrewsbury was founded in 1620; they first met on Dun's Shut (a shut is



a narrow passage or alley), off the High Street; then Seymour's Shut; Kings Head Shut; Stiller's Shut, now known as Golden Cross Passage; before moving to a meeting house in Dog Lane, now Claremont Street from which its early name of Claremont Baptist Church was derived. Now named the Shrewsbury Baptist Church, it is one of the oldest Baptist churches in England. There are eight main towns in the county: Shrewsbury, which serves as the county seat; Telford; Oswestry; Newport; Whitchurch and Market Drayton in the north while Bridgnorth and Ludlow are

in the south. The River Severn is its main waterway and Ludlow Castle and Shrewsbury Castle have historically been the seats of power. If the Sheppard family did hail from Wales, the Baptist congregation nearest Shropshire was meeting at Hay-on-Wye in the old county of Radnorshire, southwest of Shropshire, which now makes up the central part of the county of Powys.

THOMAS first saw military action while fighting for ROBERT DEVEREUX, 3RD EARL OF ESSEX (1591 – 1646) the first CAPTAIN-GENERAL and CHIEF COMMANDER of the Parliamentary Army. THOMAS was in ESSEX's Lifeguard Regiment, one of only two cuirassier regiments (the other was the "London Lobsters" of SIR ARTHUR HASSELRIGG) formed during the *English Civil War*. A standard regiment had about four hundred men divided into six troops of sixty to eighty men each. *Cuirassiers* were classified as heavy cavalry (the harquebusiers were light cavalry) and were equipped with two large pistols called petronels and a short sword or cutlass with a straight narrow blade and sharp point and protected by armor and thigh-length heavy leather boots sometimes partially covered with steel armor plates as well. The *Regulations of KING CHARLES II*, dated 5 May 1663, state:

Each Horseman to have for his defensive armes, back, breast, and pot (helmet); and for his offensive armes, a sword, and a case of pistols, the barrells whereof are not to be under fourteen inches in length; and each Trooper of Our Guards to have a carbine besides the aforesaid armes.

Cuirassiers were the lineal descendants of the fully-armored men-at-arms of the middle ages. Not only were cuirassiers expensive to equip and maintain, it was also difficult to find horses strong enough to bear their weight but the soldier was required to actually supply their own horse. The cuirassier differed from the harquebusiers in that the latter wore *buff coats* made of heavy leather

that could withstand a blow from a sword and even a musket ball if hit from a distance, and occasionally breast and back armor, while the former wore articulated plate armor and a lobster-tail steel helmet with nose-guard. Their helmet had a movable three-barred visor and they usually wore a bridle gauntlet on the left hand. They were used as what we would call “shock troops.” Infantry units could be identified at a distance depending on the color of the sashes worn – red for Royalist and the tawny orange color of ESSEX for Parliamentarians. Standard pay for cavalry was 12s 6d weekly, out of which came the cost for feeding your horse or horses; a single soldier may have three or more horses at any given time. The Lifeguard Regiment was the successor to the Inns of Court Regiment but it is not known if THOMAS was part of the Regiment under the early name. The Inns of Court was a section of London that boasted of four popular inns where barristers and attorneys having business with the Court gathered and were similar to a powerful guild; the Inns sponsored a cuirassier Regiment which had been put at the KING’S disposal in December 1641. (See Appendix 3) It was one of the first military units to challenge CHARLES I when he attempted to forcibly enter the House of Commons and arrest some its members on 4 January 1642. Knowing how someone became a member of this Regiment could provide clues as to where our ancestors lived in England. What is known is that the structure of the caste system was very much in use. THOMAS, who later appears as a Captain, must have been a member of the gentry as all commissioned officers with the rank of Captain or above were drawn from this class. Even if he enlisted with a lower rank, he would not be eligible later on for a Captain’s commission had he not been part of the gentry. Three of the Regiment’s officers became Generals under OLIVER CROMWELL (1599 – 1658): EDMUND LUDLOW (1617 – 1692), HENRY IRETON (1611 – 1651) and CHARLES FLEETWOOD (1618 – 1692). The fact that he was in a cavalry regiment tells us that he was in the yeomanry or above, moreover, as a cuirassier, he was probably the son of an Esquire, if not one in his own right (see discussion later on social classes). The costs associated with becoming an accomplished horse back rider were not affordable to one that was not of the yeomanry class. The high cost of armor and battle horses was prohibitively expensive for the lower class and most of the middle class as well. During August THOMAS may have numbered among the force of seven thousand men sent from London to Somerset under the EARL OF BEDFORD to counter the Royalist enlistments taking place in the area. The Lifeguard Regiment was in the van of the main army on the 19th of September on the road leading from Coventry through Warwick and on to Worcester. An advance guard of a thousand horse and dragoons (mobile support troops armed with flintlock muskets and mounted on second-rate nags who rode into battle, dismounted and fought on foot) under SIR JOHN BROWN clashed with Royalist forces just south of Worcester at Powick Bridge on the 19th or 20th and were completely routed. When the retreating forces crashed into the Lifeguard Regiment which was under the command of WILLIAM RUSSELL, 5TH EARL OF BEDFORD (1613 – 1700), they panicked, broke ranks and fled. The Regiment was slow to regroup but it did and proceeded to Stratford-on-Avon. Once there ESSEX learned that CHARLES’ army was in nearby Kenilworth. His forces raced south by a forced march to Kineton on the 19th of October to intercept the Royal Army; THOMAS SHEPPARD undoubtedly rode as part of the vanguard in the Lifeguard Regiment. BEDFORD, the appointed LIEUTENANT-GENERAL OF HORSE, sided with Parliament at the opening confrontation of the *First Civil War* (1642 – 1646), the *Battle of Edgehill* on 23 October 1642. Both cuirassier regiments, the Lifeguard and the Lobsters, were held in reserve under the commands of SIR PHILIP STAPLETON and SIR WILLIAM BALFOUR as part of the right wing cavalry. The battle commenced with a cavalry charge at about 1 pm and victory was snatched

from CHARLES only by a second cavalry charge of BALFOUR and STAPLETON's cuirassier regiments late in the day. They were behind the center's infantry in a support position.

BALFOUR advanced with the Lobster's Cuirassier Regiment against COLONEL RICHARD FIELDING'S infantry brigade in the centre, exploiting a tactical error that left a flank exposed. BALFOUR broke through the Royalist line, routed the brigade and captured FIELDING along with two of his regimental colonels, LUNSFORD and STRADLING. Although they were not aware of it, a party of BALFOUR'S men came close to capturing the royal princes CHARLES and JAMES, who were watching the battle from behind the lines. The cuirassiers pursued the fleeing Royalists back to their artillery positions several hundred yards in the rear on the slopes of Edgehill. After slaughtering the gunners and cutting the trace ropes so that the guns could not be hauled away, BALFOUR withdrew towards the Parliamentary lines, only to come under fire from his own side, who mistook the returning cavalry for Royalists.

Simultaneously with BALFOUR'S attack, STAPLETON led the Lifeguard Regiment of cuirassiers against the Royalists in the centre, but with less success. However, as STAPLETON'S men fell back, BALFOUR returned to join forces for a second attack. While the EARL OF ESSEX sent infantry units on the Parliamentary right wing forward for a frontal attack on SIR NICHOLAS BYRON'S brigade, BALFOUR and STAPLETON swept around to attack the flank.

On the 24th, following a miserably cold night, neither side was willing or able to resume hostilities and ESSEX broke off the engagement and retreated some fifteen miles north to Warwick. ESSEX then made for London, arriving in the outskirts on the 6th of November. A stand-off the following week allowed him to withdraw his army into winter quarters at Windsor, while CHARLES made for his own winter quarters at Oxford.

BEDFORD switched to the Royalist camp and participated in the *Siege of Gloucester* from the 3rd of August to the 5th of September 1643. His was not the only such defection for many soldiers, upon capture, would immediately enlist in the opposition army. ESSEX left London on the 26th of August to relieve the besieged city, which he did on the 6th. Unlike BEDFORD, THOMAS remained loyal to Parliament and participated in the relief of the *Siege of Gloucester*. To return to London, ESSEX first feinted north towards Tewkesbury then abruptly reversed course and headed south, passing through the small village of Oxenton (now on A435) and made for Cheltenham. It was at Oxenton that THOMAS SHEPPARD was taken prisoner by the Royalist Army around the 11th of September. ESSEX continued south reaching London on the 24th. THOMAS was held prisoner for five weeks before making his escape sometime before the end of October after which it is assumed he made his way back to his unit. Between the end of 1643 and early 1645 Thomas' whereabouts have not yet been documented; hopefully existing documents in British repositories will one day fill in the blanks, of which there are many.

The New Model Army (formally the "Army of Parliament") which called for eleven cavalry regiments (a twelfth was added in 1647) of six hundred each was created by an Act of Parliament in February 1645. In the main it was made up of units from the existing Parliamentary armies of the Earl of Essex, the Southern Association and the Eastern Association. Regiments were organized into six troops, of one hundred troopers plus officers, non-commissioned officers and specialists (drummers, farriers etc). On the battlefield, a regiment was normally formed as two divisions of three troops; one commanded by the regiment's Colonel the other by the Lieutenant Colonel. This Army was the origin of the British "Red Coats" as that was the new uniform of the

infantry. The New Model Army was designed to create an allegiance to the Kingdom rather than to a commanding officer or area; the standardization of uniforms was once method used to attain this goal. This was an ultimately successful counter to the customary behavior whereby soldiers defended their own county or shire but were reticent to fight elsewhere; many regiments simply refused to move while many of those that did just wandered out of camp and headed back home. This was partly done out of necessity – at this time soldiering was part-time and secondary, especially if you farmed the land. You had to take care of the fields, sow the seed, bring in the harvest and a million other things and you went on a military campaign or two if time allowed. To be able to do both, you had to be close to home – over the years this gained a gloss of honor – you were serving to protect your friends and family while those serving away from home were doing God-knows-what. This mindset had to be eliminated. Command was entrusted to the thirty-three year old SIR THOMAS FAIRFAX; he chose CROMWELL as his LIEUTENANT-GENERAL, the second-in-command (and overall commander of the horse). When it came time to start the enlistment, or reenlistment, for the New Model Army the whole of the Lifeguard Regiment did so, becoming the most senior troop as the Lifeguard Regiment of SIR THOMAS FAIRFAX. The New Model Army was but one of the forces mustered by Parliament, the two other armies were that of the Northern Association and the Western Association. THOMAS SHEPPARD slips off our radar screen for the next few years but he was among the 1645 reenlisting Lifeguards.

MILITARY RANK: THOMAS probably served all through 1646 as when he does reappear in March 1647 it's as a CAPTAIN in COMMISSARY GENERAL HENRY IRETON's light cavalry regiment. At the time the command structure was the *General* at the top; his second-in-command was the *Lieutenant General of the Horse* while third-in-command was the *Lieutenant General of the Infantry*. Each *Lieutenant General* had their own second-in-command and for the cavalry this was the *Commissary General*. The *General*, *Lieutenant General* and *Commissary General* each led their own cavalry regiment, often with a subordinate commanding officer, with the eight remaining cavalry regiments under a *Colonel*; under him, in order of rank were the *Lieutenant-Colonel*, *Major* then *Captain*; these three commanded the (usually) six individual Troops within a Regiment. Within each troop the *Lieutenant* was second-in-command followed by the *Cornet* (later *Second-Lieutenant*) which was the lowest grade of commissioned officers (equivalent to the Infantry *Ensign*). [See Appendix 2 for a complete list of the officers of the Army and Cavalry Regiments which must have been made early in 1647 as THOMAS does not appear]. The non-commissioned officers were the *corporals* who supervised groups of ten to twenty *privates* and were often assisted by *lance-corporals* in the larger groups.

SOCIAL CLASS: As a CAPTAIN THOMAS received a societal designation of *Esquire* belonging to the English *gentry*, one step higher than that of *Gentleman* and, as a result, will hopefully show up in the register of Officers and Gentlemen in the Earl of Essex's Army at the British National Archives. (*Gentry* had four divisions; in descending order, they were *Baronet*, *Knight*, *Esquire* and *Gentleman*; an *Esquire*, or *Squire*, originated as a battlefield term, he aspired to be a *Knight* and was usually in the service of one) The reason for assuming he served continuously is this: when we meet up with him again, he is well-known and well-liked enough to be one of two elected representatives for his six-hundred-man cavalry unit. When THOMAS comes back onto our radar screen, he's among the twenty-one thousand-strong New Model Army billeted around GENERAL FAIRFAX's headquarters at Saffron Walden, thirty-five miles north of London, pending disbandment. CHARLES surrendered to the Scottish Parliament in 1646 and they turned him over to the Northern Army in January 1647.

The belligerents involved were not as clear-cut as history reports – CHARLES, though head of the Anglican Church, had strong Catholic leanings and not-a-little support from Catholic nobles. The Parliamentary Army was originally raised by the Presbyterian-dominated Parliament to defend the King while the New Model Army was led by Generals with strong Anabaptist tendencies. Both of these can be considered to be anti-Royalist forces (those raised by Parliament) and they eventually split into two factions: the earlier Parliamentary Army morphed into the New Model Army dominated by Anabaptists and a second Parliamentary Army dominated by Presbyterians. Presbyterians argued for a strong, centralized religion rather than the Anglican Church model with its power held at the local level. They believed it was this diffusion of power that precipitated the formation of the many heretical religious sects popping up all over the country. At the end of the *First Civil War* in 1646 the problem of having a standing, unpaid, Army loomed large. With their pay in arrears, soldiers grew increasingly restless made worse by rumors that Parliament was considering sending half of their number to conquer rebellious Ireland – the English forces that had been sent there in 1641 had been recalled by CHARLES in 1645. Many wanted to return home to see their family and attend to their own concerns as they had been away for months, a function of the new design of the Army.

In February 1647 Parliament decreed that the New Model Army would be reduced from its current size of twenty-one thousand to sixty-six hundred cavalry and dragoons only. The rest could volunteer to serve in the twelve-thousand-plus army being raised to retake Ireland or return home. A parliamentary delegation was sent to the military at Saffron Walden on the 21st of March but was shouted down and presented with demands for back pay, for full indemnity of any legal action arising from the recent war and clarification of the terms of service in Ireland. Seeing that most Parliamentarians wanted to restore the KING without major democratic reforms or religious freedom, many soldiers asked why they had risked their lives in the first place, a sentiment that was strongly expressed by their elected representatives. Parliament was clearly shaken by this unprecedented turn of events and registered their “*high dislike*” and warned that THOMAS and his fellow soldiers would be “*looked upon and proceeded against as enemies of the state*” on the 30th of March. All such groups were summarily forbidden the right to petition. The indemnification for all acts done during the recent war was required because of the ambiguous legal status of that confrontation – was it a true war or was it a rebellion? Individual soldiers, whole regiments and commanding officers were being sued by the citizens and by local governments in courts all over England to recover damages and costs incident to the war. To give voice to their grievances, on the 28th of April eight cavalry regiments each elected two members to a representative council. THOMAS SHEFFEILDA and ANTHONY NICKSON were the elected representatives of COMMISSARY-GENERAL IRETON’S regiment; the others were:

- EDWARD SEXBY and WILLIAM TAYLOR for FAIRFAX’S Regiment;
- WILLIAM ALLEN and SAMUEL WHITEA for CROMWELL’S Regiment;
- WILLIAM PRIOR and JOHN CASEBY for the Regiment of COLONEL CHARLES FLEETWOOD;
- THOMAS KENDALL and WILLIAM YOUNG for COLONEL EDWARD WHALLEY’S Regiment;
- TOBIAS BOX and JOHN WILLOUGHBY for COLONEL JOHN BUTLER’S Regiment;
- JOHN BRAYMAN and NICHOLAS or ROBERT LOCKYER for COLONEL NATHANIEL RICHIE’S (or RICH’S) Regiment; and
- HENRY GETHINGS and THOMAS DIGGELL for COLONEL THOMAS SHEFFEILD’S Regiment.

Of these men LOCKYER was executed before an army firing squad on 27 April 1649 being among the mutineers of his regiment and TAYLOR married into the SHEPPARD family. The

representatives presented a letter to Generals FAIRFAX, CROMWELL and SKIPPON (1600 – 1660) protesting the proposed disbanding of the army and relocation of significant segments to Ireland without obtaining some guarantees of salary and other benefits that were, as yet, unmet by the government. This THOMAS SHEFFEILDA is believed to be our ancestor THOMAS SHEPPARD because of a subsequent questioning about their actions before the House of Commons uses our ancestors' name, but the similarity with one of the Colonel's names has not gone unnoticed. That our ancestor did receive Irish lands is undisputed and this alone lends some credence to this belief, we are left to wonder at the great discrepancy between the two surnames. Wearing red ribbons on their sleeves, the sixteen members of the elected soldiers' councils became known as the *Agitators* and they posed a real threat to the uneasy peace in England – the Royalist Army had been defeated, temporarily as it would turn out. The military was accused of being top-heavy with Baptists or Anabaptists (a catch-all description meaning other-than-Presbyterian) while Parliament was dominated by Presbyterians after the Scottish style. Parliament was troubled by the growing strength of their New Model Army by the end of the *First Civil War*. The dispute crystallized on the 30th of April 1647 when three representatives of the *Agitators* – THOMAS SHEPPARD, EDWARD SEXBY and WILLIAM ALLEN – were chosen to present their demands in the House of Commons in the form of *The Apologie of the Common Soldiers*. The *Apologie* amounted to an ultimatum – unless their demands were met: they received their back pay, they were fully indemnified for all acts and compensation was to be paid to widows, orphans and the disabled – the Army would not disband nor would it go to Ireland. In addition the designation of being “*enemies of the state*” was to be categorically repealed. The three presenters were summoned before Parliament and interrogated about the origins of this mutinous behavior but they maintained that the *Apologie* had been drawn up by the several different regiments of the Army working in consort and without the knowledge of their officers. Parliament responded by sending a three-man commission to the area to hear the soldiers' grievances. This culminated with hearings held at Saint Mary's Church in Saffron Walden on the 15th and 16th of May in which OLIVER CROMWELL participated as one of the commissioners. On May 19th the *Agitators* issue a circular letter warning soldiers against Parliament's plans for the Army. Within two weeks Parliament fully indemnified all soldiers and repealed its declaration of “*high dislike*” which threatened the soldiers with a declaration of being an enemy of the state but they only promise the security of arrears and redress of grievances *after* the Army is disbanded. *Agitators* continue to warn soldiers to resist disbandment. At the start of June 1647 we find a three-sided conflict: CROMWELL and Parliament sitting in London, the KING at his capital of Oxford and GENERAL FAIRFAX with the mobile Army HQ. Events moved quickly: Army Headquarters moved to Bury Saint Edmunds; a large munitions store was captured at the Royalist capital of Oxford; and a troop under the command of CORNET (SECOND LIEUTENANT) GEORGE JOYCE (born 1616) seized CHARLES from at his residence of Holdenby House in Oxford on 4 June to prevent him from negotiating with Parliamentary. An Army Council is formed on the 5th having two commissioned officers and two private soldiers chosen by each regiment from two elected representatives of each Regiment and the Generals; it isn't certain if the *Agitators* were incorporated into the Council or not. The Army Council delivered a statement to Parliament on 8 June making their concerns known; this was followed by presentation of the *Representation of the Army* on the 15th which is condemned. Soldiers claim the right to speak for the people of England and demand that M.P.'s who abuse their power should be called to account. On the 16th the Army presents charges of impeachment against the eleven leading Presbyterian M.P.'s in the House of Commons, accusing them of attempting to overthrow liberty and justice; it is refused

by the House on the 25th. The Army moves its headquarters to Uxbridge that same day making it easy to cut off supplies to London. On the following day, after receiving menacing letters from the Army, these eleven members request permission to withdraw from the House. It is assumed that THOMAS was on the Army Council if the *Agitators* were made part of it but it is not known the extent of his involvement in these machinations though it is likely to have been significant given what we *do* know of him so far. JOHN LORD BERKELEY is appointed mediator between the KING and Army officers on the 12th of July. You will recall that BERKELEY becomes LORD PROPRIETOR of the Province of West New Jersey in 1664. The *Agitator* faction of the Army Council calls for a march on London unless Parliament responds to their demands on the 16th. A proposed settlement was drawn up by CROMWELL, IRETON and the Army Council in July which was finalized by a committee of a dozen officers and the same number of *Agitators* appointed by FAIRFAX and presented, unofficially, to the KING by BERKELEY. The *Heads of Proposals* called for a limit to executive power and regularly elected Parliaments but alienated military leaders by deferring the issues of the soldiers' indemnity and arrears to a later, unspecified date. On the 6th of August FAIRFAX marches at the head of his army through London and takes possession of the Tower of London. By mid-October the Army comes to realize it can not negotiate with the KING and takes the first steps in setting up a government without one. The Putney Debates of October and November were a military affair to discover which of three proposals answered their concerns the best: the *Heads of Proposals*; the *Agreement of the People* which had been promulgated by the civilian wing of the *New Agents*; or *The Case of the Armie* from the military wing of the *New Agents*. The New Agents formed when members of the radical group the Levellers connected with their kindred spirits in the Army. SEXBY and ALLEN who were questioned by Parliament with THOMAS were *New Agents* but THOMAS does not appear to have been affiliated with that group. Whether or not the military faction of the *New Agents* was truly representative of the Army or functioned merely as an extension of the radical *Levellers* is still hotly debated. These proceedings are interpreted by some historians as the beginnings of true democracy. CHARLES initially rejects *Heads* but then voices his preference for it over the worse *Newcastle Propositions*. FAIRFAX demands, and receives, the full acquiescence of the military in supporting the *Heads* by late November. Before FAIRFAX's triumph though CHARLES I, with BERKELEY, escaped from his enforced captivity at Hampton Court on November 11th and finds refuge on the Isle of Wight. THOMAS SHEPPARD was probably present and active in London from August to at least November 1647.

The difficulty in demobilizing a standing Army lies in the fact of large numbers of soldiers being returned to civilian life. While the non-commissioned officers could sometimes return to the pre-military occupation, Captains, as part of the gentry, were disqualified from productive occupations by the caste system. It's no small wonder that we find whole Regiments changing sides. The soldier's allegiance was to being paid, not to a religion or KING or the Parliament. Whichever side would pay for their services usually got them. The options facing Parliament were daunting – they could only demobilize the Army if they could pay them what was owed, which they couldn't, or they could keep the Army and find some way to quell the growing uproar over back pay. Parliament had no choice; the Army had to be maintained. This led directly to the *Second Civil War* (1648 – 1649). Though a step in the direction of true democracy, many in the military felt it too small and agitated for full political equality for all ... men.

While the specific movement of individuals is uncertain it is likely that THOMAS moved with Army HQ from Royston to Newmarket in June and on to Saint Ives in July. He probably

was present in London during August 1647 when the New Model Army occupied that city. The Army overwhelmed the Presbyterian forces protecting Parliament there and suppressed a Royalist uprising.

The *First Civil War* tumbled CHARLES I from the throne first into the lap of Parliament, then into that of the Army, precipitating the *Second Civil War* of 1648 - 1649. This “War” was more a series of skirmishes with two very different causes. One was the ongoing troubles between Parliament and the Army while the other was war with CHARLES most recent ally, Scotland. In February 1648 FAIRFAX’S own lifeguard regiment became so mutinous it had to be disbanded. It isn’t clear if this regiment was the same as ESSEX’S Lifeguard Regiment, or its successor, or not. The Army, officers and enlisted men, concluded that CHARLES had to be executed and when the Long Parliament refused to do their bidding, the Army created the Rump Parliament by hand-picking those M.P.’s that agreed to execute the KING. Tried and found guilty of treason by this hand-picked Parliament, CHARLES correctly asserted: Parliament, Long or Rump, did not have the legal authority to imprison him, let alone charge him with crimes or conduct a trial. The M.P.’s were guilty of treason and, had law prevailed (or, rather, *when* the law prevailed), each would have been executed. But CHARLES was also a realist and foresaw that the only way to secure the future of the STUART monarchy was through his execution. Anarchy triumphed, the law trampled and the KING lost his head on the 30th of January 1649. Now headless, KING and government, a Parliament was created that oversaw England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland under the *Commonwealth*; this republic limped along until 1653. In that year the *Protectorate* was established with OLIVER CROMWELL being designated LORD PROTECTOR of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland and Ireland. CROMWELL, who had strong Puritanical leanings, favored the Baptists in the Army over the Presbyterians in the Parliament. His dictatorship lasted eleven years until the *Restoration of the Monarchy* under CHARLES II in 1660.

THOMAS again slips from our radar screen after 30 April 1647 and is absent for the whole of the *Second Civil War* – perhaps he sat this one out; perhaps his unit saw little action; perhaps he is an undiscovered hero of some battle – that research is waiting to be done. If he was serving under IRETON still then he was most likely at the campaigns in Kent and Essex. His story picks up with the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland but before leaving England, a brief summation to bring us to the restoration of the STUART monarchy.

While specific information about our ancestor is wanting over the course of the Second Civil War, his association with IRETON’S cavalry is going to be assumed. In retelling the story of IRETON’S soldiers it is hoped to be a retelling of the exploits, in a general way, of THOMAS SHEPPARD. Royalist forces were able to foment civil unrest in London and Canterbury in December 1647. London was quieted through the intervention of its Mayor but the government of the county of Kent found itself at the mercy of rising Royalist factions who were able to seize Canterbury on 21 May 1648 followed by a naval revolt five days later. FAIRFAX’S Army left London on 27 May to put down the revolt and made contact with the main enemy forces at Maidstone two days later. FAIRFAX’S eight thousand soldiers, including IRETON’S Regiments, secured the perimeter of the town around 7 pm shortly after which time what appeared to be a minor skirmish broke out. The skirmish morphed into a full assault lasting four hours and the town fell by 11 pm, the Royalist forces broken. IRETON’S Regiments pressed on to Canterbury which surrendered on 8 June. Meanwhile FAIRFAX took his main force north into Essex county where the remnants of the Royalist army from Kent met up with their Essex counterpart and fortified themselves in Colchester. Strongly defended, the Royalists repulsed FAIRFAX’S attack

on 13 June and the Parliamentarians set about constructing a ring of fortifications around the city. IRETON rejoined the main Army and his Regiments worked through June on the ring of forts which was completed on 2 July. The siege lasted for the better part of two months with its surrender coming on 27 August. It seems that IRETON's Regiments saw little action until the invasion of Ireland the following summer.

In May 1650 CHARLES II allied with the Scottish Presbyterian Covenanters prompting CROMWELL's return to England to lead his forces in the *Third Civil War* (1649 – 1651). The Scottish forces were soundly beaten and CHARLES II sailed for France in October 1651. The Royalist garrison on the Isle of Jersey surrendered in December with the colonies of Virginia and Maryland capitulating in March 1652, leaving Ireland as the sole remaining vestige of the STUART monarchy ... for a while.

In a sad twist of fate OLIVER CROMWELL, hailed by some as a great reformer, ushered in a thirty year period where constitutional and legal reforms were stopped dead in their tracks. The period of instability of the English government was brought to a fitting end when the Scottish Army occupied London and disbanded the Long Parliament in February 1660. A newly seated Parliament recalled CHARLES II who rode into London on the 29th of May, thus fulfilling his father's prophesy that the death of the father was a prerequisite for the coronation of the son.

The New Model Army was disbanded in 1660 with two exceptions: one regiment became the Coldstream Guards and the Lobsters Cuirassier Regiment became the Royal Horse Guards. Following this, several reserve regiments were created since the Parliaments restricted the KING's capacity to have a standing military, the cost was prohibitive, they weren't needed and the recent overthrow of Parliament by the Army was fresh in everyone's minds.

IRELAND

The Irish Confederate Catholics assumed control of the country after the Irish Rebellion in 1641. A (Royal) English Army was sent to quell the rebellion but by 1644 they barely managed to keep control of the Pale, a hundred square mile area around Dublin plus a small garrison at Cork. The Irish capital was moved to Kilkenny and by 1649 the English had lost their tenuous grip at Cork. CHARLES I entered into a truce with the Irish Confederacy in 1645, freeing up much needed soldiers for his own army however their value proved illusory. In 1649 the Irish Confederacy formed an alliance with the remnants of the English Royalist party under the exiled king CHARLES II who, after being on the island of Jersey in the care of SIR GEORGE CARTERET who would later become the LORD PROPRIETOR of the colony of East New Jersey, landed in Ireland during June 1650. He was already double-dealing as in the previous month he had repudiated the alliance his father had made with the Irish Confederates.

Parliament sent over the Irish Army made up in large part from the disbanded regiments of the New Model Army under the command of OLIVER CROMWELL. Before embarking for Ireland from Bristol on the 31st of July all the arrears in pay for the soldiers were made good. THOMAS is thought to have been one of the four thousand cavalry that landed on the 15th of August with CROMWELL now LORD LIEUTENANT and COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF; his second in command was HENRY IRETON who was promoted from COMMISSARY-GENERAL to MAJOR-GENERAL just before leaving England. The Cromwellian conquest of Ireland technically lasted from 1649 to 1653 but most of Ireland was subdued by the middle of 1650. CROMWELL led the army from August 1649 to May 1650 followed by his son-in-law HENRY IRETON who was promoted to MAJOR-GENERAL and made LORD DEPUTY; he died of a fever while at Limerick in

November 1651. IRETON was succeeded both professionally and personally by CHARLES FLEETWOOD. Not only did he assume command of the Irish Army, he also married IRETON'S widow (and CROMWELL'S daughter) BRIDGET. FLEETWOOD was appointed LORD DEPUTY OF IRELAND.

The Irish Confederate forces were led by JAMES BUTLER, 1st MARQUESS OF ORMONDE (1610 – 1688) until December 1650, followed by ULICK BURKE, EARL OF CLANRICARDE to the end of the war. To finance the war Parliament a group of merchant adventures was chartered with each member being an investor. While the actual amount invested fell far short of the anticipated loans, it left no room for alternatives – Ireland must be taken since Ireland itself was the soldiers pay and the investors' profits. This *Company of Adventurers* included one WILLIAM SHEPPARD, a grocer who built Castle Sheppard not too far distant from the lands that THOMAS would come to possess. This castle remains as a manor house today and is near the ruins of Castle John which, while far from proven, lends a level of credence to the possibility of WILLIAM and THOMAS being related.

CROMWELL'S time in Ireland was said to be one of wholesale slaughter; he believed the Irish people as well as the English settlers from years before were inferior and this inferiority justified their murder. To his way of thinking, he was only avenging the deaths of thousands of his countrymen who had been slain since 1641. In CROMWELL'S defense, at every town besieged by him, terms were offered on condition that the garrison laid down its arms and surrendered the town to the Parliament. The terms included safety for the inhabitants free from injury, and the right to the common soldiers to march out, with or without arms, and in some cases permission to their officers to accompany them. Cromwell allowed no pillage; he hanged any soldier that plundered. He was well supplied and all was paid for and no free quarters were taken; the salary of the soldiers was in the form of grants of confiscated land. An army that paid for everything and did them no wrong was a new experience to the poor inhabitants, who were accustomed to be pillaged indiscriminately by all parties, and they came in freely with market produce and kept the army well fed. Compared with the sack of Magdeburg which began in 1630, where twenty-five thousand were killed, CROMWELL'S excesses pale. The New Model Army suffered terribly too; close to twenty-five hundred soldiers were killed during the siege of Clonmel on 17 May 1650.

DROGHEDA AND WEXFORD

CAPTAIN THOMAS SHEPPARD probably was present for the fall of Drogheda and the massacre of over thirty-five hundred soldiers, priests, women, children and babies that ensued in early September, including the murder of the Royalist governor SIR ARTHUR ASTON who was bludgeoned to death with his own wooden leg. On the 2nd of October 1649 THOMAS was before the town of Wexford on the River Slaney along the southeast coast of Ireland in southern Leinster. CROMWELL sent LIEUTENANT-GENERAL MICHAEL JONES to secure Fort Rosslare at the end of a spit of land commanding the harbor entrance which he did on that same date. A siege was begun but because of the town's divided sympathies the garrison commander COLONEL DAVID SYNOTT opened negotiations. CROMWELL'S cannons bombarded the castle in an effort to hasten the surrender and on the 11th CAPTAIN STAFFORD, the commander of the castle, betrayed the castle. The defenders abandoned the walls, many drowning while fleeing across the River Slaney, as CROMWELL'S men poured into town and slaughtered over two thousand soldiers and many unarmed civilians as against the twenty English casualties.

FORT DUNCANNON AND NEW ROSS

Assuming that Thomas was in Ireton's regiments, we will follow his movements more closely. Cromwell's main force headed west and reached New Ross, a walled town in County Wexford, on the 17th, he breached the walls near the main gate on the 19th and the town surrendered. In order to demonstrate that he would grant lenient terms to garrisons that surrendered, CROMWELL announced that SIR LUCAS TAAFFE, the governor of New Ross, and the New Ross garrison would be allowed to march away with their weapons and equipment; the town would not be plundered and the civilian population could remain there unmolested or depart with their goods. However, CROMWELL refused to allow TAAFFE to remove artillery or ammunition from the town and he was adamant that the practice of Catholicism would not be tolerated. TAAFFE accepted the terms and marched out with 2,000 of his men to rejoin ORMOND'S main army. Another five hundred of his men, all Protestants, defected to Cromwell.

CROMWELL sent a detachment under IRETON in mid-October to capture Fort Duncannon which guarded the eastern bank of the River Barrow estuary. Assuming THOMAS stayed with IRETON'S soldiers, it is likely that he was at Fort Duncannon. After a fruitless three week siege, the Parliamentarians withdrew to rejoin the main army. IRETON and JONES then crossed the Barrow on 15 November 1649 and marched north-westwards towards the Confederate capital Kilkenny. There were two times when CROMWELL was actually in or near New Ross and it is likely that he appointed CAPTAIN THOMAS SHEPPARD as military governor at one of these times. The first was when it surrendered and the second was in mid-November; THOMAS was governor for only a short period. CROMWELL dispersed his army into winter quarters at Cork, Youghal and Dungarvan. IRETON assumed command of the Army in November 1649 and was instrumental in capturing Inistioge and Carrick. CROMWELL returned to command and in February 1650 Ireton's forces captured Ardfinnan Castle. CROMWELL returned to England to assume command of the Army there and IRETON became commander-in-chief. At this point our ancestor is completely lost to us as it isn't known who assumed the Regimental command of IRETON'S former units (which, we are assuming, THOMAS was in). Through the summer and autumn of 1650 the major military conflicts were at Tecroghan (May – June), Waterford (July – August), Limerick (August – October) and Meelick (25 October 1650). The Army went into winter quarters then resumed the siege of Limerick in June 1651; that town fell in October. IRETON died the following month and command was assumed by CHARLES FLEETWOOD. The movements of our ancestor remain fuzzy for the next few years.

There is one other record about our ancestor: he received a £5 bounty for “accompanying a priest to his arrest and confinement” but the particulars of this incident have not been uncovered.

After the Cromwellian Conquest was complete the New Model Army returned to England, minus those soldiers who opted to stay in Ireland as THOMAS did. From these remaining soldiers, regiments were built which were commonly called the “Irish Brigade” though that name is properly applied to the forces under the Irish Confederacy. As the 1660s drew to a close, the possibility of a STUART restoration grew; at the same time so did the uneasiness of the Protestants and the soldiers in Ireland over the fate of their land grants. To discuss their options a council of elected soldiers was created and we find CAPTAIN THOMAS SHEPHERD (note the new spelling) as the elected representative of the *Irish Brigade*.

THE CROMELLIAN PLANTATIONS

Nearly fifty thousand Irish Catholics were transported and sold as slaves, mostly in Barbados as part of the terms of the 1652 *Act of Settlement*. Other terms addressed those who fought the English: “leniency” was granted to those that surrendered within the specified time period – they only lost two-thirds of their estate; those that didn’t surrender lost their whole estate, and possibly their lives! The *Act* also addressed those Catholics that *didn’t* take up arms: they lost one-third of their estate! The forfeited lands were needed for two reasons: to repay the *Adventurers* for their loans that helped finance the war and as soldier’s pay. Under a Decree issued in September 1653 all the Irish landholders who were not exiled were forcibly moved to the westernmost province of Connaught and County Clare in Munster province and once there, they could not settle within four miles of the River Shannon or the coast. Remember though, the great majority of Irish Catholics were *not* landholders, they were tenant farmers, so the land retained a strong Catholic majority in all areas, except in any government capacity. The counties of Dublin, Kildare and Carlow in Leinster province and Cork in Munster were set aside for the government. The rest of the whole of Ireland was given away: Limerick, Tipperary, Waterford and Kerry in Munster, Kilkenny, Laois, Longford, Louth, Offaly, Meath, Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow in Leinster and Armagh, Down, Antrim, Armagh, Cavan, Fermanagh, Londonderry, Donegal, Monaghan and Tyrone in Ulster went to the soldiers and the *Adventurers* to split 50-50. Of the fifteen hundred *Adventurers*, one thousand and forty-three received 1.1 million acres. The amount of land received by the military is believed to be comparable. Each soldier received a *debenture* or certificate of pay due; there were 33,419 issued. The *debentures* were exchangeable for confiscated land of equal value and, as only 11,804 *certificates of possession* were issued, it seems that several *debentures* could be exchanged by one person for a single *certificate*. Land distribution was by a controlled lottery designed to keep units together as detailed later. It seems logical that some sort of black market in *debenture* transfers sprang up as the majority of soldiers wanted to return home to England. The Books of Survey and Distribution done after 1660 reflect seventy-five hundred soldiers and five hundred *Adventures* still on their land. One concession that the new land holders had to agree to was to keep their weapons and act as a reserve militia when needed to quash any future rebellions. The numbers correlate surprisingly well – there was a 65% reduction when comparing the number of *debentures* issued to the number of *certificates* issued; this figure represents those soldiers who returned to England immediately after victory; the seventy-five hundred found in the Books represents an additional reduction forty-three hundred, or 13%, of the *debentures* issued. The combined figure of 78% of soldiers returning home closely correlates with the one out of five figure given (20%) for soldiers remaining in Ireland.

The changeover was stunning and complete; in 1649 sixty percent of the land was owned by Catholics; this figure dropped to just eight percent during the Protectorate and only rose to twenty percent after the 1660 STUART Restoration. FLEETWOOD favored the Anabaptists and Puritan sects over the moderate Presbyterians leading to protests and his recall in 1655.

THOMAS SHEPPARD’S ties to his English hometown had been thoroughly undone as he elected to take up residence on the Irish lands he was granted while eighty percent of his fellow soldiers sold their land grants and returned to England. He received a land grant from CROMWELL for a portion of the Townland of *Caisleán Sheáin* or *Cushlawnteawin* (English: Castlejohn) in the county of Tipperary (now South Tipperary). Castle John itself was given to another soldier. THOMAS profited greatly from the soldiers that wanted to return to England; he

bought their *debentures*, at a great discount, for much-needed cash. Redeeming several *debentures* at face value for a *certificate of possession* increased the size of his land grant dramatically. It was a huge risk though as the value placed on the land by the government far exceeded its true worth. After receiving his initial land grant, he could expand his holdings by purchasing adjacent tracts from members of his own Regiment. A particular tract would be designated for a particular Regiment; this was then subdivided into six smaller sections, one for each troop. In each subdivision members of the same troop received their grant whose size was directly proportional to the amount of the *debentures* turned in. In this manner, the Regiments remained relatively intact, though depleted in number, and were easily reconstituted into a sort of Irish Brigade. THOMAS allegedly traded a fellow soldier a single white horse for the castle itself, a testament to the relative value of 15th century Irish castles and white horses! Many soldiers sold their *debenture* for cash and returned home; so many were up for sale that the price paid for the debenture was only a fraction of the amount of pay the soldier was due to receive. THOMAS was able to snap these up and create a rather large plantation, some fourteen hundred and thirty-nine acres by 1659, for himself and his descendants on the Tipperary side of its border with Kilkenny. A total of forty-nine people were living on the Castlejohn townland in a 1659 enumeration including twenty-nine English soldiers categorized as *Titulados*. A *Titulado* was any person of standing in the locality which included all military officers and *Adventurers*. They may have owned land, but not necessarily; this census was one way to determine how many soldiers had remained in Ireland. The remaining twenty Irish were probably tenant farmers shown in two clusters, a few buildings around the castle and a larger grouping to the west. This section of Ireland is known for its rocky soil and uneven landscape making it difficult to farm but it would be ideal for raising the cattle that Ireland was famous for. The curtailing of the Irish cattle industry started in earnest in the 1660s with protectionist measures enacted by the English Parliament, measures that would lead to the destruction of this all important commodity. The SHEPPARD family moved into the 15th century Castle John which had been built for the Irish noble TOBIN family. They were Normans from Saint Aubyn in France who arrived in 1170 and settled in County Tipperary and in Ballytobin near Callan in County Kilkenny. The head of the family was known as the BARON OF COURSEY.

Along with the Restoration came the restoration – of Irish land to their pre-Cromwellian Catholic owners. CHARLES II issued a declaration soon after mounting the throne that confirmed the Cromwellian land settlement in 1660. He also reconstituted the Irish Parliament and appointed ORMONDE as his Lord Lieutenant there. This *confirmation* was followed up with two *Acts* that ORMONDE maneuvered through the Irish Parliament despite the fact the Protestants held a slight majority in the House of Commons. The 1662 *Act of Settlement* stated goal was to maintain the status quo while it did precisely the opposite – it provided for land restoration to a tiny number of the Catholic former owners that were Royalists and who were deemed “innocent” of slaughtering Protestants by Courts of Claims. This Ormonde-supported *Act*, incidentally, allowed the Protestant ORMONDE to recover the vast estate holdings of his Catholic relatives. This created more problems that it solved and the *Act* had to be modified by another – the 1665 *Act of Explanation*. This *Act* redefined who was *innocent* in such a way as to greatly reduce the number of Catholics that were eligible under the previous *Act* to regain a part of their estates. How much of THOMAS’ fourteen hundred-plus acres remained after the 1665 *Act* is not yet known. This *Act* mandated that all who gained land because of their service to CROMWELL had to surrender one-third of it. Cases heard before the Court of Claims were complicated by the fact that, in THOMAS’ case, he received a part of the Townland of Castlejohn as payment for his

military duty in Ireland; the rest he purchased (or traded white horses for) outright. Were only the land he received by using the proceeds from his *debentures* subject to surrender or was this confiscation to apply to lands he had purchased as well; and if so, to what degree? In 1667 the Court was still swamped with claims and counterclaims.

A part of the original plantation can still be seen today: the three hundred sixty-four acre Castlejohn Townland is in Slievardagh Barony and a part of the Templemichael (Irish: Teampall Mhichíl) Civil Parish; it is in the Poor Law Union of Carrick on Suir (this town was taken by stealth during the siege of Waterford in 1649 when it was discovered that a town gate had been left undefended). His decision to remain in Ireland may have been due to his strong Baptist convictions which, if we are to believe the stories passed down to us, he passed on to his children.

Along with ownership of Castlejohn came Thomas' entrance into the *Landed Gentry*. Members were in the *upper class* but not in the *peerage* (which included titled Nobility, Baronets, sometimes Knights but never Esquires) and were able to live off the income generated by their *tenant farmers*. These *tenant farmers* employed agricultural laborers to work their rented farmlands. In contrast, *yeoman farmers* owned land, usually more than a hundred acres, which they farmed themselves; they could sit on juries and vote for a *Knight* to represent their shire but they weren't in the *Gentry* because they had to work for a living. Behind them came the *husbandman* who led a similar life just on a lower scale – he had a smaller farm and smaller income. The *yeoman* and *husbandman* constituted the rural *middle class* while the *tenant farmer* was the upper echelon of the *lower class*. The class distinctions were often blurred, deliberately in many cases as a *yeoman* paid different taxes than a member of the *gentry* did.

BEING A BAPTIST WHEN IT WAS NOT THE POPULAR THING TO DO

There were two primary Baptist traditions in England before 1660: the General Baptists and the Particular Baptists. Many of the early Baptist congregations were independent affairs with a mix of variant tenets out of which grew movements such as the Anabaptists who considered infant baptism to be against Scripture; many died out while others merged together. For later separatist congregations, only a "true church" could administer a valid baptism. The question then became what constituted a "true church"? Infant baptism and adult baptism became a hotly contested question in many English Independent congregations from 1600-1660. Particular Baptists supported a separation of church and state that allowed for personal choice in matters of religion. Our SHEPPARD ancestors were Particular Baptists but because of marriage, many were sympathetic to the Quakers and several descendants would adopt that religion in the years ahead. By June 1653 there were nine Baptist congregations in Ireland: Dublin, Clonmel, Kilkenny, Cork, Limerick, Galway, Wexford, Kerry and Waterford; there was just one in Northern Ireland at Carrickfergus. The Clough Keating church became the tenth parish in Ireland in the latter half of 1653 and it was this congregation our ancestors were affiliated with despite the Waterford church being much closer. It seems that many Baptists returned to England after the Restoration in 1660 assuming, incorrectly, a tolerant Parliament.

PARTICULAR OR CALVINISTIC BAPTISTS

The origins of the Particular Baptists are unclear. The distinction of being Particular Baptist's may have developed directly from dissident radical congregations in London during the 1630s

though its roots are much older. The Jacob-Lathrop-Jessey congregation in London is often cited as the mother congregation of the early Particular Baptists. The Baptist tradition in Shropshire, possible birthplace of THOMAS, dates to at least 1630 in Shrewsbury when what would become the Claremont Church began meeting regularly. The Confession of Faith of 1643 is one of the earliest declarations of the Particular Baptists which was signed by fifteen people including THOMAS PATIENCE.

During the Commonwealth and the Protectorate the Particular Baptists attained large memberships throughout England and in Ireland because of the large number of English soldiers given land there. By 1644 there were some forty-seven congregations outside of London while the Irish congregations only took root after 1651. They were particularly strong within the New Model Army. Thomas Sheppard did not arrive in Ireland and suddenly become a Particular Baptist so it is highly likely that he was affiliated with one of the approximately fifty congregations that were present in England by 1650 and available evidence suggests it was either the congregation at Shrewsbury in Shropshire or Hay-on-Wye in Wales.

There are indications that some tension developed between the Anabaptists and Cromwell in the mid-1650s but this may be an incorrect interpretation of events. Several Baptists were known to be Fifth Monarchy Men – a group that believed in the imminent Second Coming of Christ whose goal was to ready the country for His coming. Cromwell opposed them; the fact that some were Baptists is coincidental. There were instances that could be construed as prejudiced against Anabaptists by Cromwell but these seem to be isolated incidents and, on the whole, the Anabaptists, if not thriving, at that least they survived through the Commonwealth and the Protectorate.

CLOUGH KEATING

THOMAS PATIENT (died 1666) an “old officer of OLIVER CROMWELL” was one of six ministers chosen by Parliament to go to Dublin. At the time he was a ministerial assistant to WILLIAM KIFFIN, pastor of the Baptist congregation in Devonshire Square, London. In Ireland he first went to Kilkenny where he established a church in 1650, followed by Waterford in 1651 where he left a MR. FOSTER as pastor before proceeding to Dublin. He is credited with being the founder and one-time pastor of the church at Clough Keating, which must have come about before 1660 when he returned to England. The congregation was severely prosecuted during Monmouth’s Rebellion when all members were tried “for their lives” but were spared when the jury foreman died before sentence was passed and the remaining jury members, with concurrence of a judge with Protestant sympathies, acquitted all those charged. Cleagh or Clough Keating is not found in a letter from PATIENT dated 1 June 1653 which lists the nine Baptist churches in Ireland (ten if you include Northern Ireland) however the church records of the Baptist congregation at Cork do make mention of this church in 1653 so we can accurately date the founding to the second half of 1653. Records from this church indicate a SHEPPARD presence while the records of its daughter congregation, the Cohansey Baptist Church in Bridgeton, New Jersey, confirm a very significant involvement. Now this is somewhat puzzling when one considers the difficulty of travel in mid-17th century Ireland – Clough Keating was more than a **forty** mile trip while the closest was the church in Clonmell (the county seat) and even the congregation in Waterford, with its older Baptist Church, was less than **half** that distance. More research needs to be done but it wouldn’t be surprising to find a SHEPPARD involvement with the Waterford congregation as well.

Striving for a measure of equality was the driving force behind the election of the *Agitators* of which THOMAS was one. (How he managed to hold on to this belief after participating in the massacres at Drogheda and Wexford strains the imagination) The tenets of his Baptist religion argued for self-determination. Its no-small-wonder he elected to stay in Ireland where he could practice his chosen Baptist religion, whether it be at Clonmel, Waterford or the distant Clough Keating in Lower Ormond. This last congregation was the mother church of the Cohansey Baptist Church which was co-founded by the SHEPHERD grandsons of THOMAS in 1683. Clough Keating was still in existence in the middle of the 19th century but gone by the 20th – there is little trace left of the church or town that grew up around it, but it is still marked by road signs. As a member of the landed gentry he was able to enjoy immeasurably greater latitude in his own self-determination, after all, he had a voice in government. Whether or not his tenants, who numbered about twenty, enjoyed these same rights is not known at this point in time. Further, if they did enjoy greater rights, it wasn't because they possessed them as inalienable rights but only because their landlord allowed them to. Self-determination and equality were concepts that fell quickly out of favor in England. Because of this loss of prestige, even the smallest flicker of these flames received attention completely out of proportion to the reality of the situation. Some like to not only see the spirit of THOMAS in the two most well-known of these minor flare-ups, they also want to see his hand. Some writers have claimed a role for THOMAS in both the *Rye House Plot* and *Monmouth's Rebellion* but haven't backed up their allegations with facts. Given his advance age at the time, sixty-three and sixty-five respectively, it seems unlikely but stranger things are known to have happened. Both incidents had, or were said to have had, the goal of keeping England Protestant. Attempts to do so in Parliament had been repeatedly foiled so some thought that another way needed to be found. The conspirators decided that to accomplish their goal required the elimination of the KING and his brother. JAMES STUART was an avowed Catholic while CHARLES was a closet Catholic; he attended Mass regularly but only converted on his deathbed. (Ironically when the Roman Catholic JAMES STUART became KING, he became head of the Anglican Church!) Further research may yield an answer to the question: Did THOMAS SHEPPARD have any role in the *Rye House Plot* and *Monmouth's Rebellion*, or not? NOT!

RYE HOUSE PLOT: was a conspiracy conceived in 1683 to assassinate CHARLES II and his brother JAMES STUART, DUKE OF YORK on the 1st of April (no fooling!). After attending the horse races at Newmarket, the Royal party would pass by a Hertfordshire manor house in Hoddesdon called Rye House on their way to London. The plan was to secret a hundred armed men in Rye House who would ambush the KING and his brother. A fire on the 22nd of March destroyed nearly half the town and the conspiracy. All further races were cancelled and the Royal party headed back to London much earlier than planned. Just how much of this *plot* was real and how much was an invention of CHARLES II is still heavily debated. The *plot* was conveniently “discovered” over two month's later when the King made his move to eliminate his strongest political opponents including two children of MAJOR-GENERAL IRETON: HENRY JUNIOR and BRIDGET BENDISH. Many believe the “*plot*” was an invention which CHARLES used to great effect, especially removing his illegitimate son (from what?), JAMES SCOTT, 1st DUKE OF MONMOUTH.

MONMOUTH'S REBELLION: Led by JAMES SCOTT, 1st DUKE OF MONMOUTH, the illegitimate son of CHARLES II, the *rebellion* was an attempt to overthrow the Catholic JAMES II who became KING after the death of CHARLES II on 6 February 1685. MONMOUTH was a Protestant and the COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of the English Army since 1672. The *rebellion*, which was wholly fought in England, was defeated on 6 July 1685. However the defeated Protestants throughout all three kingdoms felt the effects – many were removed from office and had their lands confiscated, including many in Clough Keating however it seems that THOMAS SHEPPARD retained Castle John unmolested, a strange fact had he taken part in the *rebellion*. Three years later the STUART monarchy was deposed by WILLIAM OF ORANGE in the Glorious Revolution and the rights so dear to our ancestor once again moved forward on their march towards become reality after a thirty year hiatus.

THOMAS died in 1671 for that is the year he wrote his will and also the year when it was proved. His estates were left, in their entirety, to his eldest son THOMAS SHEPHERD. This custom of primogeniture has unfortunately deprived us having a definitive listing of some, if not all, of his children. And while the actual instrument has not been read by this historian, it is assumed that someone has read it, someone with an interest in the family and had it contained the name of his wife, that fact would be well-publicized. That his will does not contain provisions for a wife would definitely indicate that she had died by the time he wrote his will. This writer does not know of any systematic search having ever been done to locate the final resting place of Thomas and his wife. In fact, the writer has found no mention of a cemetery affiliated with the Clough Keating or Waterford Baptist Churches or published headstone inventories from any cemetery in either area.

Griffith's Valuation from the mid-19th century for Templemichael has no Sheppard families listed.

APPENDIX I:

Order of battle for the cavalry of the New Model Army, 1645

| Colonel | Origin | Notes |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Sir Thomas Fairfax's Lifeguard | Earl of Essex | Formerly Essex's Lifeguard troop. Formed senior troop in Fairfax's Regiment then Ireton's |
| Sir Thomas Fairfax | <i>Eastern Assoc</i> | Formerly part of Cromwell's Ironsides |
| Edward Whalley | <i>Eastern Assoc</i> | Formerly part of Cromwell's Ironsides. |
| Charles Fleetwood | <i>Eastern Assoc</i> | Said to have many Independents in its ranks |
| Nathaniel Rich | <i>Eastern Assoc</i> | Formerly the Earl of Manchester's Regiment. |
| Bartholomew Vermuyden | <i>Eastern Assoc</i> | Taken over by Cromwell after Battle of Naseby. |
| Richard Graves | Earl of Essex | After June 1647 commanded by Adrian Scrope. |
| Sir Robert Pye | Earl of Essex | Pye replaced by Matthew Tomlinson in 1647. |
| Thomas Sheffield | Earl of Essex | Sheffield replaced by Thomas Harrison in 1647 |
| John Butler | <i>Southern Assoc</i> | Butler replaced by Thomas Horton in 1647 |
| Henry Ireton | <i>Southern Assoc</i> | |

APPENDIX 2: 1647 (Early) List of Officers of the Army

This information is from a transcription done in 1999 by Judith Taylor from an original copy of “A list of the names of the officers in Chiefe of Foot and Horse, the Train of Artillery, and other Officers, under the command of his Excellency SIR THOMAS FAIRFAX” (pages 325 to 331) in ANGLIA REDIVIVA by Joshua Sprigge (1647). The numbers under the Regiments are my ‘best guess’ for the troop breakdown; as will be seen the number of troops in each Regiment either wasn’t fixed or my breakdown is incorrect.

GENERAL OFFICERS

| | |
|---|---|
| General | Sir Thomas Fairfax, Knight |
| Major General | Skippon (to the whole Army) |
| Secretary to the General and Counsel of War: | John Rushworth, Esquire |
| Clerks to the Secretary: | Thomas Wragge and William Clarke |
| Treasurers at War: | Sir John Wollaston, Knight, Alderman |
| | Thomas Adams, Esquire, Alderman |
| | John Warner, Esquire, Alderman |
| | Thomas Andrewes, Esquire, Alderman |
| | George Wytham, Esquire, Alderman |
| | Francis Allien, Esquire |
| | Abraham Chambrelan, Esquire |
| | John Dethyck, Esquire |
| Deputy-Treasurer at War: | Captain Blackwel |
| Scoutmaster General: | Watson |
| Judge Advocate: | John Mi's, Esquire |
| Chaplain to the Army: | Master Boles |
| Messengers to the Army: | Richard Chadwel and Constantine Heath |
| Physicians to the Army: | Doctors Payne, Strawhill and French |
| Apothecary to the Army: | Master Web |
| Chirurgion to the General's own Person: | Master Winter |
| Commissioners of Parliament residing in the Army: | Colonel Pindar |
| | Harcourt Lughton |
| | Captain Potter (slain at Naseby, June 1645) |
| | Vincent Potter Esquire |
| Commissary Generals of Victuals: | Orpin and Cowling |
| Commissary General of Musters: | Stane |
| Deputy to the Commissary-General of Musters: | James Standish and Gerard Rich |

CAVALRY

| | |
|---|---|
| Quartermaster General of Horse: | Fincher |
| Adjutant General of Horse: | Captain Flemming and Captain Evelyn |
| Commissary General of Horse Provisions: | Captain Cooke (slain at Naseby) and Jones |
| Marshal-General of Horse: | Lawrence Rich |
| Markmaster-General of the Horse: | Mr. Francis Child |

Troops:

Sir Thomas Fairfax

Captain Gladman, Commander of the Troop
Major Desborow
Captain Lawrence
Captain Brown
Captain Packet
Captain Berry

Colonel Henry Ireton, Commissary-General

Major Sedascue
Captain Guilliams (slain at Bristol, September 1645), then
 Captain Pretty
Captain Gibbons
Captain Hoskins (slain at Naseby), then
 Captain Cecill
Captain Bury, then
 Captain Morgan
Captain Doyley, His Excellencies Life-Guard, then
 Captain Hall

Colonel Fleetwood

Major Harrison
Captain Coleman
Captain Selby (slain at Naseby), then
 Captain Laughton
Captain Zanchy
Captain Howard

Colonel Thomas Sheffield

Major Fincher
Captain Rowbotham
Captain Rainsborow
Captain Martin
Captain Evelyn

Colonel Rich

Major Alford
Captain Nevil
Captain Henry Ireton, Junior
Captain Dendy, then
 Captain Husbands
Captain Bough, then
 Captain Hawys

Colonel Whaley

Major Bethel (slain before Bristol), then
 Captain, then Major Swallow
Captain Groves
Captain Cannon
Captain Evanson

Lieutenant-General Oliver Cromwell

Major Huntington
Captain Jenkins
Captain Middleton
Captain John Reynolds
Captain Bush (slain at Naseby, June 1645), then
 Captain Blackwell

Colonel Butler

Major Horton
Captain Foley
Captain Gardner
Captain Pennyfether
Captain Perry, then
 Captain Bethel

Colonel Rossiter

Major Twistleron
Captain Anthony Markham
Captain John Nelthrop
Captain Peart
Captain Henry Markham

Colonel Sir Robert Pye, Knight

Major Tomlinson
Captain Margery
Captain Knight
Captain Barry
Captain Rawlins

Colonel Graves

Major Scroop
Adjutant-General and Captain Fleming
Captain Lord Calfield
Adjutant-General and Captain Bragge
Adjutant-General and Captain Barton

APPENDIX 3: KNIGHTHOOD

INNS OF COURT: 1 of 3 specialized secular law schools that came into existence in Middle Ages; taught a combination of Roman law and English feudal law.

The other 2 were Bologna in northern Italy and Montpellier in southern France which taught Roman law as derived from the 6th c Justinian Code.

The Inns of Court sponsored the cavalry unit that became the King's cuirassiers. The cost of armor and horses were often paid by the Lord, or the Inns, since they were so enormous. A single battle horse cost, in today's amounts, several thousands of dollars.

To become a knight one was a page for 4 years where he learned to take care of the horses, repair & maintain the armor, helped with the baggage required to be a knight and began learning the skills required; this was followed by 4 years as a squire where fighting skills were honed. The squire accompanied the knight into battle helping him to mount & dismount the battle horse if needed, replace fallen horses & damaged or loss weapons and fought on foot alongside the knight. The squire improved his fighting skills by participating in jousts. A squire would become a knight through the dubbing ceremony in which, usually, the monarch would place a sword's flat-blade on each shoulder. This could be done by be the knight's lord, military commander or other noble. Under Cromwell it may have been Cromwell himself that dubbed the Cuirassiers.

The knight had a minimum of 3 horses - 1 was a pack animal, another was the traveling horse and the largest was the battle horse - giving birth to the saying 'get off your high horse'; as well, the saying 'shut your face' originated with knights - its meaning being to close the face visor of the helmet as the knight was about to proceed into battle or joust.

Major sources of background information include:

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Updated: 11 June 2010

English Dissenters: Baptists; <http://exlibris.org>; Updated: 1 January 2007

wikipedia.org; many different pages were consulted.

Richard Cannon, Esquire, Historical Record of the Fourteenth, or the King's, Regiment of Light Dragoons (London: Parker, Furnivall & Parker; 1847)

The Reformed Reader Homepage, 1999; www.reformedreader.org